



# LEVY MATERIALS: 2024

## KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT



### BUS MAGNETS

- 44 (2 per long bus) 23"x23" magnets
- 16 (2 per short bus) 12"x12" magnets
- On buses January 3

### SANDWICH BOARDS

- 4 (2 per board) 24"x36" signs for KHS
- 2 (2 per board) 24"x36" signs for CMS
- 2 (2 per board) 24"x36" signs for HMS
- Given to schools in October



### SIGNS

- 13 - 6x3 single-sided school-specific banners
- 10 - 6x3 double-sided corx signs (Kelso Strong)
- 15 - 8x4 double-sided corx signs (Kelso Strong)
- 12 - 4x2 double-sided corx signs (Strong Schools)
- 30 - 2x1 corx signs (Strong Schools)
- Up early January





# LEVY MATERIALS: 2024

## KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

### HILANDER HIGHLIGHTS

- 8-page issue
- spotlighting videos of levy-supported programs
- Mailed to district postal route Dec 29



### ONE-SHEET

- sharable pdf of basic levy information
- shared in Inside Connection and Family Connection

**STRONG SCHOOLS STRONGER COMMUNITY**

**Renewal Levy Information**

On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Kelso School District residents will vote on an issue affecting children in our community: a four-year RENEWAL educational program and operations levy.

- 1 The renewal education & operations levy is not a new tax. It replaces the expiring levy.
- 2 This renewal levy will be on the February 2024 ballot and, when approved, would be for four years from 2025 to 2028.
- 3 All schools in the district will benefit from this levy.
- 4 Local levy dollars make up 12.6% of the KSD budget.
- 5 Passage of the levy provides an additional \$3.4 million in Local Effort Assistance to Kelso School District from the State of Washington. Receiving these funds is contingent upon the local levy passing.
- 6 The estimated average rate is \$2.08 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$6.86 per month for the owner of a median-valued home.
- 7 The levy will not be used to build new school buildings. This levy is not a bond. Bonds build buildings, levies are for learning.
- 8 Local levies bridge the ongoing gap between what the state funds and what it actually costs to deliver a high-quality education, safety, and resources for well-being.
- 9 This levy helps pay for staffing and operations that are unfunded, or underfunded, by the state, such as:
  - School safety and security
  - Sports & extracurricular activities
  - Electives (visual & performing arts, music, world languages)
  - Dual credit, advanced courses
  - Early learning
  - Smaller class sizes
  - Special education
  - Nurses, counselors, and behavioral health specialists
  - Family & Community Resource Ctr.
  - Maintenance of facilities
  - Instructional materials, technology

**YOU make a difference!**

Register to vote at: [voter.vote4wa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx](https://voter.vote4wa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx)

Learn more at [WeAreKelso.org](https://WeAreKelso.org)

### MAILER

- 14,000 - 7x14 postcard
- Mailed to district postal route Jan 18
- In staff inboxes following week

**STRONG SCHOOLS STRONGER COMMUNITY**

**2024 LEVY RENEWAL**

**12.6% of the KSD budget comes from local levy dollars.**

**ALL schools in the district benefit from this levy.**

**Not a new tax. This replaces an expiring levy.**

**100% of sports and extracurricular activities are funded by this levy.**

Learn more at [WeAreKelso.org](https://WeAreKelso.org)

**RENEWAL EDUCATION & OPERATIONS LEVY FACTS**

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  - Maintenance of facilities
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**STAFFING FUNDED BY LOCAL LEVY DOLLARS**

**100% SPORTS & ACTIVITIES**

**100% SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY**

**100% FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**

**48% FOUNDATION & BUILDING SUPPORTS**

**12.3% INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT STAFF**

Learn more at [WeAreKelso.org](https://WeAreKelso.org)



# LEVY MATERIALS: 2024

## KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

### SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

- full-page of levy information in school newsletters Nov - Feb

### INSIDE & FAMILY CONNECTIONS

- levy information shared each issue Oct - Jan

### SOCIAL MEDIA

- began sharing videos in Nov
- levy info leading up to election day: Jan 18 & 26, Feb 2 & 9

### PRIORITIES SURVEY

- Which of our district priorities are most important to YOU?
- Shared with staff, families, community Sept - Oct

### THOUGHTEXCHANGE

- What questions do you still have?
- Shared with staff, families, community in Nov
- Put top 10 questions in a FAQ

**STRONG SCHOOLS STRONGER COMMUNITY**

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**STRONG SCHOOLS STRONGER COMMUNITY**

### STAFFING FUNDED BY LEVY DOLLARS

100% SAFETY & SECURITY

100% SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

100% FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CTR

48% COUNSELING & NURSING SUPPORTS

12.3% INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

**STRONG SCHOOLS STRONGER COMMUNITY**

### Top 10 Renewal Levy FAQs

In November 2023, Kelso School District asked our community through a ThoughtExchange what questions they had about the RENEWAL educational program and operations levy that will be on the February 13, 2024, ballot. There were 10 frequently asked questions. Click here for the answers: [bit.ly/levyFAQs](http://bit.ly/levyFAQs).

- 1 What will the levy pay for?
- 2 What won't the levy pay for?
- 3 What is the levy amount, estimated levy rate, and collection years for the 2024 levy?
- 4 What are the highest priorities for the district and schools if the levy doesn't pass?
- 5 What happens to the staff funded by levy and safety and security, counseling, Family & Resource Center, and nursing support, if a nonrenewal staff?
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- 7 What happens to the staff funded by levy and safety and security, counseling, Family & Resource Center, and nursing support, if a nonrenewal staff?
- 8 How does levy funding affect class sizes?
- 9 What steps are taken to ensure fiscal responsibility?
- 10 Where will the most bond be proposed?

YOU make a difference! Register to vote at [vote.wa.gov](http://vote.wa.gov)

Learn more at [WeAreKelso.org](http://WeAreKelso.org)

**STRONG SCHOOLS STRONGER COMMUNITY**

### Top 10 Renewal Levy FAQs

In November 2023, Kelso School District asked our community through a ThoughtExchange what questions they had about the RENEWAL educational program and operations levy that will be on the February 13, 2024, ballot. Here are the frequently asked questions.

This levy helps pay for staffing and operations that are unfunded, or underfunded, by the state, such as:

- School safety and security
- Sports & extracurricular activities
- Elections (visual & performing arts, music, world languages)
- Dual credit, advanced courses
- Early learning
- Smaller class sizes
- Special education
- Nurses, counselors, and behavioral health specialists
- Family & Community Resource Center
- Maintenance of facilities
- Instructional materials, technology

Leaves are for learning, bonds are for building. The levy won't pay for construction or renovations of buildings or school structures.

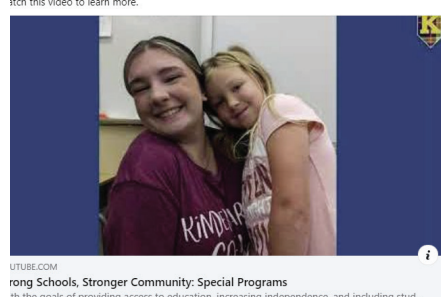
The estimated average rate is \$2.08 per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$6.87 per month increase over the expiring levy for the owner of a median-valued home. Passage of this levy ensures a high-quality educational experience and a better future for 4,975 Kelso students. It's important to note, with 12.3% of teaching and instructional support staff paid for by levy funding, passing the levy helps keep class sizes smaller.

Kelso School District  
November 20, 2023

Special Programs includes more services and supports--and impacts more students--than you might think.

% of our students access some level of special education, which includes supports in the areas academics, social-emotional, communication, fine & gross motor skills, vision, hearing, active, life skills, health services, and more.

Watch this video to learn more.



UTUBE.COM  
Strong Schools, Stronger Community: Special Programs  
In this episode of our series on education, we focus on special programs and instructional staff.

**STRONG SCHOOLS STRONGER COMMUNITY**

### EDUCATION & OPERATIONS 2024 LEVY RENEWAL

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU STILL HAVE?





# LEVY MATERIALS: 2024

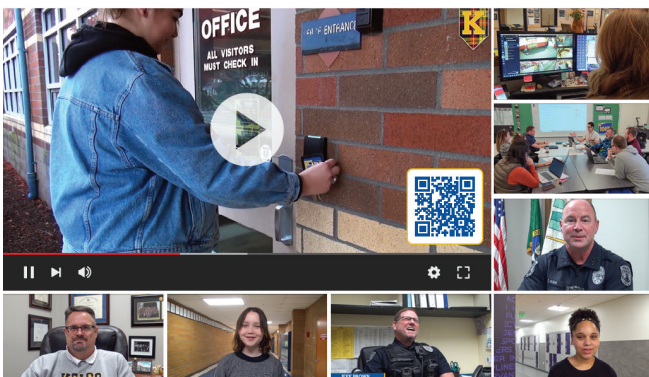
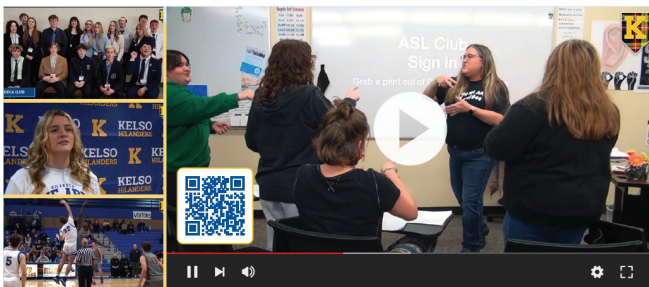
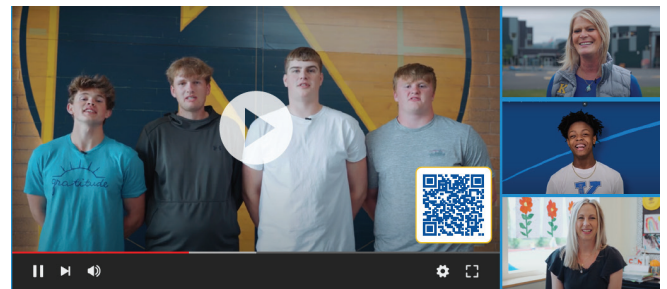
## KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

### VIDEOS

- video series highlighting programs supported by levy funding and/or sharing district goals/pride



- Teaching & Learning
  - Special Programs
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Visual & Performing Arts
- Athletics, Clubs & Activities
  - Safety & Security
  - 100% Graduation
- What Makes Kelso Strong







# LEVY MATERIALS: 2024

## CITIZENS FOR KELSO SCHOOLS

### DOOR HANGERS

- 2,000 printed

### POSTCARDS

- 5,800 general community
  - drop Jan 23
- 3,050 parent
  - 760 staff
  - drop Jan 30

**4,975**  
**REASONS TO**  
**VOTE YES**  
**FOR KELSO KIDS**

**FEB 13**

**Kelso School District**  
**2024 Renewal Levy**

**KEEP OUR COMMITMENT TO**  
**4,975 KELSO KIDS**



**KELSO KIDS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**  
**ALL 4,975 OF THEM.**

Voting YES to renew the levy will:

- Fund school safety staff and programs.
- Finance teachers, counselors, paraeducators, health specialists, behavioral health supports, and other staff the state does not fully fund.
- Sustain athletics, club activities, and the arts.
- Enhance instructional supports for early learning, at-risk students, and students with disabilities.
- Enhance technology, instructional materials, career explorations, and STEM opportunities for students.

**On February 13**  
**Vote YES for Kelso Kids!**

Citizens for Kelso Schools  
[voteeyes@yesforkelsokids.org](mailto:voteeyes@yesforkelsokids.org)  
[yesforkelsokids.org](http://yesforkelsokids.org)



This door hanger was published and paid for by the Citizens for Kelso Schools Committee without cost or expense to the district to better inform the citizens of the district about the levy.

**OUR KIDS • OUR SCHOOLS**  
**OUR RESPONSIBILITY**  
**4,975**  
**REASONS TO**  
**VOTE YES**  
**FOR KELSO KIDS**



REGISTER  
TO VOTE AT  
[VOTEWA.GOV](http://VOTEWA.GOV)



**4,975**  
**REASONS TO**  
**VOTE YES**  
**FOR KELSO KIDS**



**OUR SCHOOLS • OUR TEAM**  
**NEED YOUR VOTE**



**4,975**  
**KELSO KIDS ARE**  
**COUNTING ON**  
**YOU!**

REGISTER  
TO VOTE AT  
[VOTEWA.GOV](http://VOTEWA.GOV)



**KELSO KIDS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**  
**ALL 4,975 OF THEM.**

Citizens for Kelso Schools  
PO Box 458  
Kelso, WA 98626



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# LEVY MATERIALS: 2024

## CITIZENS FOR KELSO SCHOOLS

### COMMUNITY ADS & OUTREACH

- Columbia River Reader - Nov 25, Jan 15
  - TDN banner & digital - Jan 25 & 27  
Feb 1, 3, 8, 10, 13
- KLOG, KUKN, The Blitz spots started Jan 22
  - Texts and emails - Feb 8 & 9
- Sign waving - Feb 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13
  - Doorbelling - Feb 3
  - Stickers - 1,000 to give away
    - 250 large and small signs

**4,975**  
**REASONS TO**  
**VOTE YES**  
**FOR KELSO KIDS**

**RENEWAL LEVY**  
**BALLOTS DUE FEB. 13**

**YESFORKELSOKIDS.ORG**  
voteyes@yesforkelsokids.org

Paid for by the Citizens for Kelso Schools Committee

**4,975**  
**REASONS TO**  
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Paid for by the Citizens for Kelso Schools Committee



**4,975**  
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Paid for by the Citizens for Kelso Schools Committee





# LEVY MATERIALS: 2024

## KSD & C4KS

### COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

- Kelso/Longview Chamber - Nov 27
- TDN Editorial Board - Dec 5
- Cowlitz Economic Development Council - Dec 20
- Kelso Rotary - Jan 11
- Kelso Lions - Jan 15
- Kelso City Council - Jan 16



ENDORSED BY: Chamber, TDN, CEDC

### OUR VIEW

# Kelso schools rely on levy renewal

Vote 'yes' to keep up district momentum

THE DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD  
letters@tdn.com

Feb. 13 isn't the big election date most people have circled for the year 2024, but the date will likely be the most impactful to four local school districts: Longview, Kelso, Woodland, Castle Rock and Toutle Lake.

That day, ballots will be tallied for the districts' levy measures.

In the Kelso School District, 4,975 students are relying on the renewal of the district's four-year education and operations levy. We believe the Kelso levy deserves your "yes" vote, and will discuss the other levies in subsequent editorials.

A "yes" vote for Kelso's levy would renew the current education and operations levy, set to end in 2024. That means it's not a new tax, instead continuing a line of funding that schools already use.

Like Washington State School Board member Patty Wood of Kelso said during our recent editorial board meeting, the levy's revenue wouldn't cover extras the schools want, but necessities the district needs.

And Kelso School District is on the rise: a Kelso student was named the first Cowlitz County presidential scholar in 2022, and the district has a plan to increase graduation rates, which reached an eight-year high in 2022 at 90.5%, compared to the low of 82.5% in 2015, according to district data.

We want to keep up that momentum.



### Levy RENEWAL

On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Kelso School District residents will vote on an issue affecting children in our community: a four-year **RENEWAL** educational program and operations levy.

**ALL schools in the district  
will benefit from this levy.**



STRONG  
SCHOOLS  
STRONGER  
COMMUNITY



An old adage states "it takes a village to raise a child." Historically, Kelso has shown strong support for its schools, and we feel they deserve the same support going forward. The city simply can't afford not to invest in its own future.

- The Daily News



# LEVY MATERIALS: 2024 FOR & AGAINST BALLOT STATEMENTS

## Cowlitz County Elections February 13, 2024 Special Election

### Proposition 1

#### Renewal Of Expiring Educational Programs And Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Kelso School District No. 458 adopted Resolution No. 2023/24-02, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, renewing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State, including teaching and support staff, smaller class sizes, instructional materials, maintenance, athletics and student activities:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.91	\$8,500,000
2026	\$2.03	\$9,500,000
2027	\$2.14	\$10,500,000
2028	\$2.23	\$11,500,000

### Argument For

4,975 Reasons To Vote Yes

The Citizens for Kelso Schools is *For* passage of the 2024 Kelso School District educational programs and operations levy. The levy renews our community commitment to provide a high-quality education for each and every Kelso child for the next 4 years.

Kelso schools have 4,975 students counting on us to prepare them for living, learning, and achieving success as a citizen of our changing world. They deserve the best education we can give them, and that is only possible with the passage of this levy.

A Yes vote for this levy will: (1) Renew the current expiring levy (this is *Not* a new tax); (2) Benefit every school and every student in the district; (3) Provide programs and staffing that are unfunded or underfunded by the State, which include school safety, sports and activities, electives (arts, music, world languages), rigorous dual credit courses, smaller classes, nurses, counselors, Family & Community Resource Center, and more; (4) Provide additional millions in Local Effort Assistance funding from the State that schools will only receive if the levy passes; (5) Show our kids how much we value them and care about their education and life-long success. The levy provides so much of what we love about Kelso schools.

We Are Kelso is a long-standing chant in this town. It means something. Actually, it means everything.

Be the We. Vote Yes for Kelso kids.

### Argument Against

Legitimacy

"It is the paramount duty of the State to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders."

This quote from the WA State Constitution highlights that WA State has made education a priority. It was found that the State had neglected to honor its commitment to this obligation. In response to the 2012 Washington State Supreme Court, McCleary Decision, the State conducted a Tax/Levy swap. This swap was to see the State raise property taxes (to create a single source of revenue) and local school levy measures were to be reduced, then eliminated. At this point taxpayers shouldn't even be considering a levy seeing as that they are already paying the higher adjusted property tax.

Performance

According to the OSPI official report for Kelso SD: 42.6% Met ELA Standards; 27% Met Math Standards; 42% Met Science Standards; 90.2% Graduation Rate (while failing the 3 most important subjects) How would anyone be ready for life failing basic math?

Negative Impact

This is coming before the voters ahead of property tax bills. Property owners have seen a sharp increase in assessed values these last few years and tax bills have been going up as a result.

This Levy (tax) will have a direct effect on rents, services, and the general cost of goods. Which will be finically detrimental to the most vulnerable individuals in our community.

Legitimacy, Performance, Negative Impact. That's 3 Strikes

Vote no